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MEMORIALS

CONCERNING

SEVERAL MINISTERS,

AND

OTHERS, DECEASED;

OF THE RELIGIOUS

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS;

WITH

SOME OF THEIR LAST EXPRESSIONS.



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REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1886

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## PREFACE.

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THE Meeting for sufferings representing the Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, for the State of New-York, and parts adjacent, taking into consideration, that no publicity by printing had been given to the testimonies concerning deceased Friends on record; and believing, that a suitable selection from them would promote the cause of religion, have prepared this work for the press, in the hope that the relations therein contained of the peaceful close of those who, by obedience to the manifestations of divine Grace, had witnessed an advancement in the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, would tend to excite others to similar faithfulness, in observing that it had produced in them the genuine fruits of vital Christianity, in the truths of which they had most surely believed; and that it had preserved them through the trials and vicissitudes of life, and at its solemn period had disarmed death of its terrors, and given them a foretaste of the joys which God hath prepared for them that love him.

“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace.” **PSALM XXXVII. 37.**



MEMORIALS  
CONCERNING  
SEVERAL MINISTERS,  
AND OTHERS, DECEASED.

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*The Testimony of John Way, concerning  
RICHARD HALLET. Approved by the  
Monthly Meeting of Flushing.*

OUR worthy friend, Richard Hallet, was born within the limits of Newtown, on Long-Island. His parents were members of the Church of England, in which profession he was educated; and when about the 19th or 20th year of his age, being reduced to a low, weak state, by a wound on his foot, which confined him to the house near nine months; his mind became impressed with religious concern, and he

often took notice of the wanton and airy carriage of libertine young people, who frequented his father's house; and as their conduct became a grief to his mind, he would sometimes reprove them; whereupon some told him, they believed he would be a Quaker: to whom he replied, that he believed the people called Quakers, walked nearest the rule laid down by Christ for his followers. In this state of confinement, he had frequent desires to attend Friends' Meetings; but being prevented through inability, betook himself to reading their books; among which, was one entitled, 'A Loving Invitation to Young and Old,' written by our friend, Thomas Chalkley, with which he expressed great satisfaction. As soon as bodily strength would admit, he rode to meetings, taking with him his crutch and staff, by which means, he was enabled to attend them some time before he could walk; being fervent in spirit, the Lord condescended to favour him with the incomes of his love, by which his heart was often tender-

ed, ere he felt a necessity of appearing in public ministry; the first of which was in supplication at a meeting in New-York. I was in company with him at the time, and was sensible that his mind was favoured with the overshadowing wing of divine kindness, and that his offering was to good satisfaction. He met with close trials from his father, before he left him, for not conforming to the Church ceremonies, but his mother being a tender spirited woman, was grieved at such treatment. His father, in order to try him, bid him take the key of his chest, unlock it, and bring his will to him; which being done, he told him, that, since he harkened to the counsel of others more than to his parents, he should not be the better for his property, and then cancelled it before him; but that saying of Christ rose in his mind, to signify to his father, "he that loveth father or mother, house or lands, or any thing more than me, is not worthy of me;" at which, his father was silent some time; and then replied, "What! do you think, that I would not



have you love Christ?" But Richard expressed his willingness to part with all for his Master's sake. About this time, he bought a place near the Kilns, in Newtown, to which he removed; and after his marriage, continued a member of the Meeting, at Newtown. He was an excellent example in the attendance of meetings, in conversation, in charity, both as to hospitality and love. His ministry was plain, sound, and lively; and he often exhorted his friends to faithfulness, and to prize time. He was very useful in the discipline; a great lover of Friends, and others, being of a truly Catholic disposition; expressing frequently the apostle Peter's testimony to the universality of the love of God; "I perceive of a truth, that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation, he that feareth God and worketh righteousness, shall be accepted." He was a faithful watchman, and frequently gave the alarm when he apprehended the approach of the enemy, often reminding us in his testimony, that the Lord's

arm was not shortened, that he could not save ; nor his ear heavy, that he could not hear ; but would condescend graciously to fulfil the promise made unto the two or three who were met in his name, unto which divine power he often commended friends, manifesting a disposition like one formerly ; who, for Zion's sake, would not hold his peace, nor for Jerusalem's sake rest, until the righteousness thereof should go forth as brightness, and the salvation as a lamp that burneth.

I visited him often in his last illness, when his bodily affliction was so great, that he could take little or no rest ; and finding him, one time, a little relieved, I asked him how he did : his answer was, " Very poorly ;" upon which, I expressed great sorrow, to see him in such affliction ; but that I believed it was all he had to do, having been faithful : he replied, we shall have nothing to spare : and this he often reminded Friends of, in his testimony concerning the ten virgins. One thing I may not omit, viz. his particular care, when



meetings were appointed, to give general notice ; in which he manifested a great desire that others might come, taste, and see, how good the Lord is. In his religious labours, he approved himself diligent and faithful to the last period of his time : and no doubt, has received a crown of righteousness, so pathetically described by the eminent apostle, as laid up in store for all them that love the appearance of our Lord Jesus. May we that remain, so follow him as he followed Christ, that through like fervent love and faithful obedience, at the winding up of time, we may also have the same blessed assurance.

*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting, at  
Nine Partners, concerning AARON VAIL.*

HE was born in Westchester County, in the province of New-York, in 1722. His parents professed with the Presbyterians, amongst whom he had his education; and being in his youth often under religious concern, he was favoured with seasons of spiritual refreshment, and as he advanced in years, his exercise increased, and he frequented the meetings of different societies; but did not witness that peace of mind his soul sought after, until about the twenty-seventh year of his age, when he found his mind led to attend the meetings of our society, in which he found the consolation of divine love, that often broke him into tenderness, and produced longing desires for the prosperity of the truth. About the twenty-ninth year of his age, he removed to Nine-Partners, with his family, and continued to be a constant attender of our meetings for divine worship,

and was received a member of our society, in the year 1753; and, being careful to attend to that power which had operated in his mind, it pleased the Lord to bestow on him a gift in the Ministry. It was his lot often to pass through much tribulation and poverty of spirit; and he became qualified to divide the word aright, and was an able Minister of the gospel, through the sanctifying power thereof; he was often concerned to travel in the work of the Ministry, and was frequently led to labour in the discipline, that truth's judgment might not be evaded; and having an excellent gift therein, he became very serviceable in the church. He was likewise much engaged for the freedom of the oppressed Africans, and that Friends might be entirely clear of the gain of oppression, and be redeemed from all selfish views. He was concerned to admonish others to wait on the Lord in silence, as the only way to witness their strength renewed; and practised the same, by calling his family to sit in retirement; thus adorning

the doctrine he preached by his own example. He was courteous and affable in conversation, and much beloved in his neighbourhood; a kind and loving husband, and an affectionate father. A short time before his last sickness, he was exercised in public Ministry in a lively manner; saying, that he thought his day's work was nearly done: and he appeared to be much concerned that Friends should dwell in the life of religion, that they might witness the ancient power to be their support, by which they would be able to stand in times of trial, as he apprehended a time would come, when every foundation would be tried. In his illness, he was also much concerned that his wife and children should live near the Lord, and know him to be their portion and the lot of their inheritance, and that his children might be preserved in love and tender affection to their mother, and one towards another. After a lingering sickness of some years, he departed this life, the eleventh of the Eighth month, 1776, in the fifty-fifth year of his age, having been a Minister about 12 years.



*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Westbury, concerning SAMUEL PRIOR.*

BY taking heed to the visitations of divine love in his youthful days, he witnessed the powerful effects thereof, and became qualified for the service of Truth. He had a gift in the ministry bestowed on him when young, in the exercise of which we believe he was faithful. He bore a steady testimony against the corrupt customs and fashions of the world, both by example and precept; being himself a plain man, and free from affectation, his ministry was sound and edifying. He was a diligent attendér of our religious meetings, while health and strength permitted, but did not travel much abroad; and when, through infirmity of body, he was confined at home, he manifested resignation of mind to the divine will. His greatest concern appeared to be about heavenly things, many times expressing his desires to see Friends prosper in the Truth.

He was a loving husband, a tender father; a sympathizing friend, and much beloved in his neighbourhood. When the time of his departure drew nigh, he often expressed his desire, that he might be preserved in patience till his change came; appearing in a childlike state, filled with innocence and humility. A few days before his death, being visited by some Friends, he expressed himself to this effect; "My days are near wound up, I think;" and it being observed to him, that they believed he was willing, he replied, "Yea, if I am prepared." He departed this life, the twenty-fourth of the Fourth month, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, aged upwards of eighty-four years, and we believe now enjoys the reward of the righteous.

*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Purchase, concerning PHEBE WEEKS.*

SHE was convinced of the rectitude of the principles of Friends when young ; but through reasoning and disobedience, continued in weakness, and in the want of that peace which the faithful enjoy ; but the Lord in mercy following her with conviction and reproof, so wrought upon her, that she resigned herself to answer his requiring, by which she obtained comfort and satisfaction of mind ; and persevering in good measure in faithfulness, she was called to the work of the ministry ; and although her communications were not extensive, yet they were acceptable and edifying. She was a faithful wife, a tender and watchful mother, a good neighbour, and given to hospitality. She was zealous that discipline might be maintained, and Friends' children kept in plainness of speech and apparel. Some time before her last sickness, she expressed to her husband, that



she daily felt the comfort of the holy Spirit to such a degree, as not to expect her stay would be long in this world ; saying, “ that she felt a preparation, and was willing to die ;” adding, “ could any desire her stay in a world of trouble, who had an interest in a better to come ?” In her last sickness, she spoke but little, though what she said was savoury and tendering to those present. She departed this life, the 12th of Third month, 1779, aged 45 years.

*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Flushing, concerning MATTHEW  
FRANKLIN.*

HE was many years a faithful labourer in the gospel : his ministry was sound and edifying ; and he frequently exhorted others to love, and good works ; inviting them to come, taste, and see, how good the Lord is. He was a diligent attender of our religious meetings, both for worship and discipline, often visiting the neighbouring meetings, and sometimes those in other colonies. He was serviceable in transacting the affairs of the church, and the want of his fatherly care is felt by us. He was a tender husband, a good neighbour, cheerful and pleasant with young and old, ready to reprove for evil, but not austere ; open hearted among his friends and others, being a good example of industry in his temporal affairs, which enabled him to spare to those who were in need, and he entertained many

friends freely at his house. His plain, meek, and innocent deportment, was very inviting ; he was in a good degree raised above the fading enjoyments of this world, and when his outward man was decaying, and his time seemed nearly at an end, the heart-melting goodness of the Lord made his cup to run over, and we believe he measureably felt that evidence in himself, which is expressed by the eminent apostle, 2 Timothy, iv. 7, 8, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith : henceforth there is laid up for me, a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day : and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” In his last sickness, a friend went to see him, and after a time of silence, he broke into tears, and expressed himself as follows : “ O, God ! thou art good, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works : may all the inhabitants of the earth praise thee : thou art good, thy arm hath been underneath me, and been my support, or I

had fainted long ago, blessed be thy name, saith my soul." He was preserved in resignation and stability of mind, and departed this life, the 29th of the Ninth Month, 1780, in the 82d year of his age.



*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Westbury, concerning PHEBE DODGE.*

BY taking heed to the dictates of Truth, she gradually experienced the work of sanctification through the operation of the holy Spirit, when young in years; and through faithfulness, she became qualified to tell unto others what the Lord had done for her, having a gift in the ministry committed to her, in the exercise of which, she was instrumental to stir up the pure mind, so that many can from a degree of experience say, they have felt the comfortable effects of her fervent labour. She found her mind engaged in gospel love to visit the churches abroad, and in the year 1752, with the unity and concurrence of her brethren and sisters, she performed a visit to Friends in Great Britain; and on her return home, with the reward of peace, she produced certificates expressive of the satisfaction of Friends with her religious service. Her ministry was lively and in-

structive, accompanied with a fervent zeal for the honour of God, and the good of souls. She was of an exemplary life and conversation, a good neighbour, an affectionate friend, and open hearted to the poor. She was often exercised in visiting families, and appeared to be suitably qualified for that weighty service, and was truly a mother in Israel. When, through infirmity of body, she was prevented being much abroad, she often expressed her concern, that Friends might be given up to the service of visiting families; and would frequently, as opportunity offered, endeavour to encourage the practice of silent waiting and retirement in families, and was a good example therein to the last. For several years before her departure, she was so infirm as not to be able to meet constantly with her friends at the place of public worship; but when of ability to attend, was frequently enabled to preach the truth of the gospel; and when, by increased debility, she was confined at home, she appeared like one whose mind was

much redeemed from these lower and fading enjoyments: being often filled with divine love, it flowed to those who came to see her, and many who visited her towards the solemn close, were comforted in beholding the greenness in advanced age conspicuous in her; for, although her outward tabernacle was decaying, and drew towards its dissolution, yet, being inwardly renewed, her mind was many times lifted up in thanksgiving and praise to her Redeemer; and like one whose day's work was done, she seemed waiting for the time when she might be called from this state of being, into the mansions of never-ending felicity. In the time of her last illness, which was short, she appeared in a composed frame of mind, saying, her time was near at an end, and that she believed it would be well with her. She departed this life at Cowneck, the place of her residence, the 7th of the Ninth Month, 1782, aged 83 years, a minister near 60.



*Postscript*—The testimony of the Men's Meeting, concerning our dear, ancient friend, Phebe Dodge, deceased, was read in our Monthly Meeting of women Friends, held at Westbury, and we have good unity with it, yet we feel our minds engaged to make an addition thereto, from our own knowledge and experience of her services and faithful labours. She was endowed with an acceptable gift in the ministry, in the exercise of which, she was lively and edifying, and frequently favoured with the spirit of prayer and supplication, and enabled fervently to intercede that the Lord would be pleased to send forth more labourers into his harvest, seeing it was great, and the labourers few. She was very serviceable in our meetings for discipline, being well qualified for transacting the affairs of the church, and concerned for the proper government and comely order thereof. She was quick of discernment, and sound in judgment; and though close and plain with obstinate transgressors, and those at ease in Zion, yet to

those in whom appeared the tender impressions of Truth, her advice and doctrine were as the dew of Hermon and the small rain upon the tender grass ; and we believe her ministry was instrumental in the divine hand, to turn many from the power of darkness to the power of God.

We conclude, with desires that her gospel labours may be sanctified to us her survivors, and quicken our minds to follow her footsteps ; that at last, we may receive, as we believe she hath done, an entrance into that kingdom, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.

*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Westbury, concerning SARAH MOTT.*

THROUGH attention to the discoveries of divine grace, she was enabled to live a careful, inoffensive life, being measurably clothed with a meek and quiet spirit. She was a steady attender of our religious meetings, when of ability of body, and exemplary in a solid, quiet waiting therein; a good neighbour, a loving and affectionate wife, a tender mother, kind and open hearted to those that stood in need of relief: and that she continued in a steady, humble perseverance to the end of her time, will appear by the following expressions which she delivered during her last illness.—A few days before her departure, being asked to take some refreshment, she answered, “Nay, I seem otherwise engaged,” and desired those present to draw near her bedside: although her weakness was such, that for some time it had been difficult for her to express herself, yet she

was favoured at this time to speak considerable, and tell what the Lord had done for her, desiring all to prepare for such a time ; adding, each must do his own work ; and spoke tenderly to her children, desiring them to go to meetings, and when there, to endeavour to get their minds into true silence, a state suitable to receive instruction, both in meetings and out ; saying, she thought her outward employment never went on better, than when her mind was devoted to the great Giver, who hath all power in his hands, to give plentifully or withhold, as he may see meet ; and said, “ I entreat you to remember the poor, and be ready to lend a hand of help, for I have thought, that none have been the poorer for being kind to those that stand in need, and some I have thought, have been blessed in basket and in store on that account ; ” and entreated them to give up to serve the Lord, in the flower of their age. She often expressed, that she longed for the time of separation to come, yet desired to be preserved in patience to the end, and some

time after broke forth after this manner :  
“ I can sing praises to thy great name, and  
am thankful for thy favours in continuing  
thy mercy, from time to time, to me, a poor  
unworthy creature ; and if it be consistent  
with thy divine will, grant, I pray thee, an  
easy passage.” Thus, in much quietude  
and patience, appearing to have her last  
prayer granted, she departed this life, the  
10th of the First Month, 1783, in the 47th  
year of her age.



*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Westbury, concerning JOHN WILLIS.*

HE was born at Jericho, the 8th of the Second Month, 1734, of religious parents, viz. Samuel and Mary Willis, who carefully educated him in the principles of Truth as professed by Friends, and he was early visited by the secret manifestations of divine love, as he has been often heard to express, yet the vanities of this life, and a too eager pursuit of temporal things, prevented his yielding obedience to those divine visitations, until about the 24th year of his age, when, pursuing his business with his usual vigour, he was suddenly taken with a bleeding of the lungs, occasioned (as was believed) by too great an exertion of his natural strength, by which he was so reduced, that his recovery was rendered doubtful: in this condition, he was brought under great exercise of mind respecting his soul's peace, and was enabled to cry for mercy, and that he might witness the

presence of the Lord to his comfort. The strong man that had been so eagerly pursuing temporal enjoyments, was now brought down, and the creature reduced to a dependence on his Creator; and he has often been heard to say, that he believed his days were lengthened to him, on condition of his yielding himself in faithfulness to the Lord's requiring; and by the resignation of his own will he experienced peace, and by the healing virtue of divine power, his mind was turned from a delight in worldly enjoyments to an earnest pursuit of those things which are eternal; and being favoured measurably to recover his bodily strength, he became a diligent attendant of our religious meetings, and continuing fervent in spirit, he grew in religious experience, and was of exemplary deportment; and being faithful to the farther openings and discoveries of divine grace; about the thirty-fifth year of his age, the Lord was pleased to call him to the work of the ministry, and by continued obedience, he became an able minister of



the gospel, and much concerned for the support of our christian discipline. He was concerned to order his own house well, and to nurture his children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and was often exercised in religious visits to Friends' families; and though he lived at a considerable distance from meeting, he often attended under much bodily weakness, occasioned by frequent returns of the indisposition before mentioned, where he was enabled, with strength of voice as if in health, to testify of the goodness of God, to the comfort and refreshment of many, and to invite all to come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Notwithstanding his weak state of body, he several times visited the churches in some of the neighbouring provinces, as well as those within the compass of our own Yearly Meeting, and his labours were to the satisfaction and comfort of his friends, and the peace of his own mind. A little before he was confined at home, he made a satisfactory visit to the meetings constituting the Monthly Meeting of West-

bury, of which he was a member, to take a final farewell of his friends.

When he became confined at home, (through the continuance of his disorder, which terminated in a consumption) and expected his dissolution was drawing near, he appeared in a composed frame of mind, and was frequently led to administer suitable counsel and advice to divers of the youth and others who came to visit him. He also delivered many weighty expressions to his relations and others, who attended him, the substance of some of which follows, viz.

As two of his sisters were sitting in silence with him, he said, "Such seasons are comfortable; the Lord has reserved a blessing for his seed, from one generation to another:" at another time, he said, he saw nothing in his way, but felt great peace; and again said, he had not been weary in the way the Lord had been pleased to lead him; and now, the comfort and satisfaction it afforded was beyond words to express. The day before his departure,

he said several times, he felt death, but at intervals said, "Life is strong, and will not yield ; but the Lord's will be done ;" and said, "Oh, my gracious Father ! thou knowest my love to thee is strong." Observing one of his sisters to weep, he said, "What makes thee mourn ? there is more occasion of joy, than sorrow !" and desired that those who were about him might be still ; saying, "It is at times hard to part, but the blessing is above all." A few minutes before his departure, he said, "I am going to the Father ! Oh, come quickly, thy servant is ready ;" and soon after, quietly departed this life, aged upwards of 54 years.

*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
New-York, concerning THOMAS BURLING,  
son of Thomas Burling.*

AS the power of Truth on the mind is at seasons remarkably felt and experienced, so the present instance affords an evidence of that divine love, and holy help; which, as an arm of mercy underneath, in a remarkable manner enabled this youth to bear, with fortitude and resignation, his last illness, and to shew forth the goodness of the Lord, by the operation of Truth on his heart. He was taken ill about the 8th of the Third Month, so as to be confined to the house. In the forepart of the time, he appeared much concerned about his future happiness, and bore his pain and sickness with patience, his mind appearing to be divinely supported under the trying dispensation; the tenth of the month, he was confined to his bed, having been the preceding night much spent with severe puking, but in the morning, he was some-



what relieved ; his countenance appearing composed, he said to one of his aunts, “ I am very weak and low, and don't know whether I shall recover, dost thou think I shall ?” He was answered, she “ hoped he would,” and desired him to endeavour to keep his mind quiet and resigned : in a little time after, his countenance appearing to her very sweet, and his mind easy, she asked him how he felt, he said, “ I feel better,” but soon complained of his stomach. Seventhday morning, he grew much worse, and the puking returning, he said to his aunt, “ I believe I am going; dost thou not think so ?” She asked him if he was willing, he readily answered, “ Yes, and shall go to the Lord,” and then prayed to the Lord, that he would be pleased to take him, and cause him to sit down with him, saying, “ he hath made my feet like hind's feet, and set me on high places ;” and again prayed with great fervency of spirit, nearly as follows : “ Oh, blessed, holy Father ! thou that makest a way in the deep, and paths in the great waters, if it be thy



blessed will, with thy dear Son, who gave himself for the world, grant that I may witness thy light to shine on my tabernacle, and join angels and archangels, who for ever worship thee in singing hallelujah, with might, majesty, and dominion, for thou art worthy, world without end. Amen, Amen."

One of his uncles came in to see him, to whom he said, "My dear uncle, thou hast been very kind to me, but I am going to leave thee," and signified, that he hoped shortly to be in heaven, should it be the will of his heavenly Father, to allow him a seat in his holy mansions ; there to join in songs of hallelujah to his great name ; and then desired to be remembered to his relations at Rahway, and bid him farewell. There appearing now no hope of his recovery, he asked his father if he was willing to give him up, who said, it was hard, but he endeavoured to be resigned ; after a little pause, he said, "Don't be uneasy, father, about me," and soon after prayed in such a manner as excited great tender-

ness in those near him, making use of such expressions, as some thought, till then, he had no idea of. One of his aunts coming to the bedside, to offer him some drink, he looked up with a composed countenance, and said to her, "I shall go before my cousin Benjamin," (who was then supposed to be near his end) and further added, "I little thought of being taken away at this time of life." Expressing a desire to see two of his uncles, after a short time they came in with a friend, he gave each of them his hand, and said, "I am going," and asked the friend if he thought he should go happy? "Yes, dear child, there is no doubt with me," and after a short pause, added, "there is a blessing for thee; rest is near at hand;" he then said, "Oh, that I may be founded and grounded on the mighty rock of ages;" and being filled with praises to the Lord, he frequently prayed with great fervency, acknowledging, with concern of mind, that he had not been so thankful as he ought, for the many benefits and mercies he had received. He

was very affectionate and loving, and several times expressed a concern for all present, that their minds might be composed and brought into humility and true obedience, so as to worship God in spirit, who, he said, was alone worthy of all honour and glory ; and further said, “ Holy Father, if it be thy blessed will, look down on thy poor servant this evening.” Appearing to be much spent with frequent speaking, he was told he was very short of breath, and had better lay as still and quiet as might be, on that account, to which he answered, “ I cannot help acknowledging the many favours the Lord hath bestowed on me.”

And being then thought near his end, of which he seemed very sensible, he intimated his desire of taking leave of his near relations and others present, which was a very solemn and affecting scene, taking each by the hand and mostly calling them by name, as they came to the bedside, saying, “ Farewell, I am going, the Lord’s will be done.” Last of all, came some of

his schoolmates, to whom he gave his hand, in like manner, and expressing the same words, with which they were mostly much tendered. Then he lay still some time, as in sleep, but remained not long in that manner, before he asked for some drink, after which, he continued praying and praising the Lord, as long as his strength permitted, sometimes with a raised voice so as to be heard in the adjoining room; his strength gradually declining, drawing his breath shorter and shorter, till he drew his last, he departed without struggle, sigh, or groan, the 13th of the Third month, 1790; aged 14 years.

Thus died this youth, exhibiting in his last moments such fortitude of mind, and such resignation to the Lord's will, in hope of a glorious immortality, as may serve for an example, not only to the young and rising generation, but also to those further advanced in life.



*The Testimony of Stephen and Amy Mott,  
concerning their daughter ABIGAIL. Ap-  
proved by the Monthly Meeting of West-  
bury.*

FROM very early life, she manifested more than common stability and circumspection in life and conduct, which evidently increased as she ripened in age and experience, and being of good natural talents, and having a lively sense of religion, she was truly amiable; and although in conversation she was prudent and guarded, yet her intimate friends and acquaintance enjoyed an agreeable cheerfulness and affability in her company, which her modesty and diffidence deprived those of, who were not so well acquainted with her; she was loving and dutiful to her parents, and tenderly affectionate to her friends, and indeed to all with whom she had to do; very charitable to the poor, and sympathizing with the afflicted; she was exemplary in



attending meetings, and encouraged the rest of the family in that important duty ; many times, whilst in health, expressing concern when she observed the youth or those more advanced in age, deviate from their religious profession. About three years before her decease, she was brought under bodily indisposition, which indicated declining health ; endeavours were used for the removal of her complaints, but they proved ineffectual ; during which time, she became more fully sensible of the insufficiency of all terrestrial enjoyments, and more weaned from the love and pursuit of them, and her affections were increasingly placed on things permanent and eternal. About three months before her death, she was taken with inward bleeding, and having frequent turns thereof, her strength was soon so reduced as to confine her mostly to her bed, a circumstance sufficient to have alarmed a mind destitute of heavenly treasure ; but she appeared so settled on the unshaken foundation, as to receive with humble acquiescence, any

thing that the great Author of her being saw meet to dispense unto her ; which was evident, not only from the weighty and sensible expressions that dropped from her lips, but the composure of mind during the time of her great weakness of body : far from complaining of the Lord's dealing thus with her ; but on the contrary, was enabled thankfully to commemorate his goodness, care, and kindness to her, in being with her, and preserving her all her life long. The following are some of the expressions that she uttered during the course of her illness ; many others she expressed, but not being taken down in writing, they cannot now be recollected. On her first raising blood, her mother being with her, seemed much alarmed ; she calmly said, " Do not be frightened, mother," and afterward expressed the composure she felt at the time, and that this alarming symptom was not unexpected to her, and signified she thought it might be in best wisdom if she should be taken away in her youth, and removed from the many temptations

that are in the world. Her mother asked her if she thought she should recover ; she replied, “ Oh, dear mother, it is what I have not expected this great while ; I desire, that both thou and I may be given up, and that I may go as my dear sisters have gone, but I feel no way anxious about it.”

Notwithstanding her state of resignation, she was tried with poverty of spirit, her sense of which, she expressed in these words : “ It often hath been, and is at this season, a gloomy time with me ; although I hope and desire to have a full assurance of reconciliation with the Father before I go hence.”

She would often speak of the necessity of having our accounts prepared, and peace made before we come upon a sick bed, and that she found enough to do to bear her bodily infirmities ; saying, “ I have seen the necessity of such a preparation since I have been laid on this bed of affliction : I believe I have been as orderly as young people in common : I have endeavoured to be careful in my conversation and con-

duct; I know not of any thing in my way, yet I do not feel that quiet I long for." She one day thus expressed herself: "I do not think that I have all this to bear on my own account, but it may be for the good of some that may see me. If it is right, a release would be very acceptable, yet I sometimes fear that I am too anxious for it; I hope my patience will hold out to the end."

At times, she mentioned, that her greatest concern in bidding adieu to this world, was the leaving her parents in their lonely situation. To a near connexion and intimate, she thus expressed herself: "Thou seest me a poor weak creature, it seems as if my continuance here would be short, I desire when I am gone, thou wouldst remember my dear mother, and be as a daughter to her; her friend being much affected, and saying, "I shall greatly miss thee," she replied, "I believe thou wilt; we have loved each other well, but I hope we shall soon meet again, for it is but a little while the longest liver can



stay." When in health, she was exemplary in the plainness and simplicity of her dress, and during her sickness, expressed how little worth while it was to be anxious about dressing these bodies ; adding, " At such a time as this, the very grasshopper is a burden." And to a physician that visited her, she said, " Thou hast frequent opportunities of seeing persons in my situation, mayest thou improve thereby, and not put off thy day's work until such a time as this. I find it enough for me to bear the affliction of body, without the anxiety of having my peace to make."

Being now very weak and low, she could bear but little company, and expressed a desire that her patience might endure to the end, and a hope that she might have an easy passage. The day before her death, she said, that thinking seriously last night whether it might not be her last, it ran through her mind, if it is so, all will be well. About the tenth hour, on Firstday evening, the family retired to bed, leaving



her aunt and cousin with her ; she soon fell into a sweet sleep for about half an hour, then awoke, and asked for something, which was done for her ; she afterwards lay in a gentle slumber for awhile, and then revived, but soon complained of being very hot, and desired more air ; more was admitted into the room ; notwithstanding which, she said there was a great heat in her stomach, and desired to have the windows and doors opened ; she then asked her aunt, if there was not a change in her ; who replied, she thought there was ; and asked, if she would have her parents called ; she said, “ I believe it is best,” and immediately after, raised herself in the bed, lifted up her feeble hands, and although previous to that time, she had been so weak, that it was with difficulty she could be understood ; she was now enabled to raise her voice so as to be distinctly heard in almost any of the different rooms in the house, and in frequent acknowledgment and thanksgiving, said nearly as follows : “ Oh, Lord ! thy will and not mine.

be done. I humbly acknowledge thy great and merciful kindness, in being near at such a time as this ;” and so continued rendering praises and thanks in many expressions, which cannot be remembered, until her father and mother entered the door, when she said, “ My dear parents, come in ; my dear mother, come and sit down by me ; all be still, and mourn not ; for the time is now come, that I have a full assurance of soon joining the heavenly host.” Her mother said, she had believed that it would be so, before she departed. She then said, “ Oh, the love, the joy and sweet peace that flows through my soul, more than I have ever experienced before ;” feelingly mentioning these words of Christ, “ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you ; not as the world giveth, give I unto you ;” and much more that cannot be recollected. She desired to be remembered to some of her friends, naming one of her cousins particularly, saying, “ I wish him well from my very heart,” and gave her love to all her dear friends. She

then said, "Oh, Lord! I acknowledge thy great kindness in being near me all my life long; to thee I commit my body, soul and spirit;" and then laid herself down, but soon after asked for her little brother, and said to him, "Farewell, dear Henry, be a good boy, and I desire thou mayest be a good man." Then sweetly and tenderly bidding all present, "Farewell, farewell," she removed the pillow from under her head, and in a few moments after, in peace and quietude, breathed her last, a little before the twelfth hour at night, on the 14th of Sixth month, 1795, in the twenty-second year of her age.

The following was found amongst her papers, Ninth month, 12th, 1793. Twenty years end this day, since the day that gave me birth; may I ever be thankful to that hand who gave me a being, and hath hitherto showered unmerited blessings on my life. Ninth month, 12th, 1794. This being my birthday, I have been reflecting, how short the space of time seems since 12th of Ninth month, 1793; yet how many

within the small circle of my acquaintance, are since numbered with the silent dead, and removed to the house appointed for all the living; yea, some of the dearest companions of my life have received the solemn summons; does not all this, in the loudest language, bid me also prepare? Eleventh month, 16th, 1794. Firstday evening, without any other company except my dear parents, with my eye on my book, but my mind turned to look back and take a retrospective view on the different situation of our family but a little while back, when I also had the agreeable company of two dear sisters, who are now numbered with the silent dead; it was an inducement to reflect, how uncertain all these lower enjoyments are. May my mind, more than it ever hath been, be fixed upon an object lastingly durable, when all human comforts and consolation will be unavailing.



*The Testimony of East Hoosack Monthly Meeting, concerning* ROBERT NESBITT.

HE was born in Coultershaw, near Edinburgh, in Scotland, the 22d of Eighth month, 1744, and carefully educated by his parents among the Presbyterians. By his own account, his understanding was at times illuminated so as to discover divers inconsistencies in the principles of his teachers, but not duly attending to those discoveries, and placing confidence in those he esteemed his superiors, he did not at that time witness the gracious purposes intended by such visitations.

About the 22d year of his age, which was soon after the decease of his father, he left his native country, and came to Boston, in New-England, in the capacity of a servant; from thence, he went to Nova-Scotia, where he continued some time; being discharged by his master, about the 27th year of his age, he came to this place, and settled; he often expressed his admi-



ration of the kindness of divine Providence, in preserving him from the gross vices of those among whom he lived ; and also, that the care of his parents in his education was a benefit to him. He manifested himself to be a zealous young man, and strongly attached to the principles of his education, but living among Friends, and having an opportunity of perusing some of their writings, he became acquainted with their principles, and was much affected with the account of their patient sufferings in times of persecution, which induced him to attend some of our meetings for worship, and by yielding to the precious visitations of divine grace in his mind, he became convinced of the Truth, as professed by us, and was received a member of our religious Society, and by a steady attention to the dictates thereof, he experienced a growth in grace, and received a gift in the ministry, and became qualified to labour in the Church. On the establishment of a Monthly Meeting in these parts, he evidenced a careful attention and concern

for the support of our Christian discipline, and although his outward circumstances were small, yet he seldom missed attending the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of which he was a member, notwithstanding most of them were held at a considerable distance from his habitation. The latter end of the year 1782, with the concurrence of the Monthly Meeting, he entered on a religious visit to Friends in New-England, and travelled on foot nearly as far eastward as any Friends were settled; and on his return, produced very satisfactory accounts of the unity of Friends with his services.

Having passed through many humiliating trials, his mind was much weaned from the wisdom and pursuits of the world, and he often earnestly exhorted his friends and others to beware of covetousness and those aspiring inclinations, which prevent a growth in the Truth, and disqualify for religious services. He was a good example of patience and contentment, in his low situation in the world. In his public

ministry, he was often led to treat of the excellency of the gospel dispensation of love and peace, with clearness and pertinency, in the authority of Truth, and was a deeply exercised labourer in the concerns of Society, and the support of our Christian discipline. He manifested much concern and sympathy with persons in affliction, either of body or mind, and we believe his visits to them were often useful. From the time of his early exercises among us, he was much affected with the distressed situation of that part of the African race held in slavery; and refrained from the use of articles furnished by their labour; and endeavoured to prevail on his friends to avoid contributing to the oppression of that people. In the year 1791, he attended the Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia, and divers other meetings in Pennsylvania and New-Jersey; and by accounts received from thence, we find, that in this visit, he had extensive service, especially in Philadelphia.

He was taken sick the latter part of the Seventh month, 1795, and endured a painful illness, which continued about eleven weeks ; in the course of which, he was at times much tried with poverty of spirit, yet his mind appeared to be supported above the fear of death, and he desired his wife and children to give him up freely. He uttered divers weighty expressions ; some of which being preserved, are in substance as follows, viz. Speaking of his pains, he said, “ I believe I have not one to spare, they are so necessary to wean my affections from things below ; for although I have lived much loose from the world, yet had I to live my time over again, I believe I should live more so.” The distressed situation of the African race in slavery, much accompanied his mind ; often crying out, “ O, the poor negroes ! the poor negroes !” He often mentioned his thankfulness, for the very kind attention of his friends and neighbours, in the time of trial. One meeting day, a friend and his wife made him a visit, he said, “ I be-



lieve we may have a meeting here," and desired his family and others present, to sit down ; after a considerable time of silence, he desired to be raised up, and though in the time of stillness he was very faint, he now seemed to be relieved, and said, " Notwithstanding this my outward man is very low, my inward man is strong ; yea, it is as strong as ever : the love of the gospel that I feel is as strong as ever ; not only to those here and hereaway, but the love of the gospel that I feel reacheth over sea and land. I believe the Lord, who has been my support through my sickness so far, will be a father to the fatherless, and a husband to my poor widow, as their trust is in him." At several times, he communicated weighty advice to his children, and desired, that when the time of his departure came, they would sit down and wait upon the Lord, who giveth life, and taketh it away. He desired his eldest son, not to engage himself in the affairs of government ; expressing his belief, that he himself had been rightly withheld from taking

an active part therein, and was now thankful for it. In the beginning of the evening in which he departed this life, being asked if he was sensible that he was going, he answered, "Yes; and I am glad of it." He was confident, that the time of his departure grew very near; expressed his thankfulness, that the hiccoughs had left him, which he had desired to be relieved from; and requested his family and others to be still: being offered something to take, he again desired them to be still; saying, "Enough has been done for my body:" after some time, his friends being desirous to do what they could for him, he replied, "You may lay me as I shall lie when I am laid out," which were nearly his last words; after which, he lay very still to the last, and breathed apparently easy. He departed this life very quietly, about the ninth hour in the evening of the 16th of the Tenth month, 1795, aged 51 years, and a minister about 18 years.

*A Memorial from the Creek Monthly Meeting, in Nine-partners, concerning our friend TIDDEMAN HULL.*

HE was born in the State of Rhode-Island. His parents were John and Damaras Hull, who were members of our religious Society ; and in the early part of his life, by their consent, he removed and settled within the verge of Purchase Monthly Meeting ; where, and at New-York, he resided until the year 1777, when he removed with his family within the limits of this Meeting, then a part of Nine-partners Monthly Meeting, and became a useful member thereof, being exemplary in the diligent attendance of our religious Meetings, and encouraging his family therein. In the year 1781, he appeared in the ministry, and was serviceable therein ; the young and rising generation particularly claimed his attention ; unto many of whom he was endeared by his tender and fatherly advice. He often

pressingly entreated those unto whom he ministered, to close in with the day of their visitation; and sometimes in private conversation was heard to say, that he had nothing more to regret, than that he did not in his youthful days give up to walk in the paths of piety and virtue. He was divers times acceptably engaged in visiting families within the compass of this Monthly Meeting, a service he appeared to be well qualified for; and frequently visited the adjacent Meetings, particularly those newly set up. He often not only advised it, but was himself in the practice of retiring in stillness; and at times convened his family upon the same important occasion.

In the year 1793, soon after his return from a religious visit in the western settlements of this State, he was brought very low by a fit of sickness, his life not being expected, either by himself or his friends, to be prolonged; at which time, his faith appeared unshaken; saying, "My confidence is in the Lord, and in him will I trust: I feel his presence to be near, which



is above all, and can rejoice in tribulation.” At another time, his children being by his bedside, he, looking upon them, said, “If it is the Lord’s will that I shall go now; I am entirely willing;” soon after, with an audible voice, “Oh, Lord! be graciously pleased to take me to thyself, or endue me with patience to bear my pains; yet not my will but thine be done: try me any way that will be most agreeable to thy holy will.”

The same day, divers friends coming to see him, he said, “This is a hard struggle between life and death; I do not know which will have the victory; but, let which will, I believe I shall be the Lord’s;” with much instructive advice and counsel to many that came to see him during his illness: from this sickness he gradually recovered.

He was taken ill of his last sickness, the 18th of the Ninth month, whilst sitting in our Monthly Meeting; in which, he manifested the same fervency of spirit in his religious labours that had hitherto accompanied them. In the evening, he signified

to some of his family, he believed that was the last meeting he should attend. His disorder proving to be the dysentery, his strength failed fast. On Fourthday morning following, after a wearisome night, he expressed a desire for stillness, and an easy passage, as he believed his time here would not be long. Soon after, being more free from pain, divers friends being present, he said, that at the last Monthly Meeting he attended, he thought at the time, it would be the last ; and that he felt his mind impressed with something to deliver, but did not, for the want of an opportunity ; which was, that Friends in all appointments in the Church, be careful not to appoint such as were in the practice of sleeping in meetings, referring to the frequent advice of the Yearly Meeting on that subject. Then addressing himself to his youngest son, he gave him much instructive counsel and advice. After which, laying still awhile, he was fervently engaged in prayer, that the Lord would be graciously pleased to be near in this trying time, and that he

would remember Friends of the little meeting to which he belonged, that the extendings of divine regard might be to his family, and that they with Friends might be kept as in the hollow of the Lord's hand. After which, his disorder being very sore upon him, he expressed but little; though, at times, he was engaged in prayer, and in the expression of a few words of love and tenderness to such as came to see him, bearing his pains with Christian patience, waiting for the time to come, that he might be relieved from them. He departed this life, on the 28th of the Ninth month, 1795, aged about 62 years.

*A Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Westbury, concerning RACHAEL WILLETS,  
late the wife of Joseph Willets.*

SHE was born at Westbury, on Long-Island, in the year 1742, and received her education among Friends. In early life, she was favoured with the precious visitations of divine love ; whereby, she was in good measure preserved from the follies and vanities incident to youth. Some time after her first marriage, which was to Silas Hicks, she became more closely engaged for her soul's peace, and through submission to the operation of that power which had graciously visited her, she became not only an example of piety, but received a gift in the ministry ; which, though not extensive, was acceptable and edifying. She was a good example of plainness, simplicity, and innocency in life and conversation ; and was often concerned to encourage the practice of retirement and waiting upon the Lord in families, being



herself a good example therein. Some years before her decease, being afflicted with a disorder which reduced her low, she at times underwent much pain and distress of body. She was preserved in patience and resignation, appearing in a peaceful frame, and signifying how hard it would have been if she had her work then to do. She was much relieved from this disorder, yet continued weakly, and at length settled into a gradual decline ; during which time, she appeared in a sweet and resigned frame, filled with love to mankind at large. Towards her close, she was frequently engaged in prayer and praises to the Lord ; who, she said, had been with her from her youth, and had been her support in all trials to that day ; and was enlarged in counsel and advice to those who came to see her ; pressing upon them to do their day's work in the day time, that they might be prepared for such an awful season ; and not put off that great and necessary work until a sick bed or dying hour. Some of her expressions being preserved, are in substance as follows :

When some friends were with her, after sitting awhile in silence, she said, she felt the presence of the Lord to be with her in that trying time, which was comfortable beyond what words could express ; saying, it was a great comfort to have something to bear up in times of trial, and that she felt entirely easy, having a satisfactory assurance of a happy change, and that she did not speak it boastingly, but with a thankful heart.

At another time, a friend being with her, after a time of silence, wherein she seemed much affected and tendered by the power of Truth, she said, it is a great help when we can mutually feel that love which flows as a river ; and added, “ the Lord is strength in weakness, riches in poverty, and a present help in every time of need : let us look to him.” At another time, she said, she felt nothing to trouble her, nor any thing then to do, but to wait upon and praise the Lord ; saying, “ Praises and thanksgiving be given to his holy name for evermore.”

Having in the course of her life, manifested great concern for her children, she divers times in her illness expressed her desire that they might not suffer their minds to be captivated with the pleasures and profits of this world, but that they might choose the Lord for their portion, and serve him faithfully, and thereby make their calling and election sure ; and having done their day's work, might feel the satisfaction she then did, and be enabled to lay down their heads in peace.

At another time, speaking to a friend who came to see her, she said, she had a few words of encouragement for him ; that he had begun a good work, and desired he might be faithful ; saying, there is much need of labourers, for too many have settled down at ease ; and that he might be enabled to help bear the ark of the covenant upon his shoulders, and journey forward, when those that now bear it are removed from works to rewards. A friend taking leave of her, she said, she hoped her time here would be short ; that she

was ready and willing to go ; and soon broke forth in prayer and praises to the Lord, who, she said, had been with her all her life long, and had not left her now, who is worthy to be waited on and praised for ever. A few hours before her departure, she prayed that the Lord would be with her in her most trying moments, and support her as in the hollow of his hand ; and soon after, quietly departed, like one falling asleep, on the 20th of Seventh month, 1797, aged 55 years, and we have no doubt is entered into the rest prepared for the righteous.



*A Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
New-York, concerning JOSEPH DELA-  
PLAINE.*

FROM a feeling sense of the loss the church hath sustained, and we in an especial manner, who have oftentimes been edified by his ministry and pious example ; we are desirous of preserving some account of his life and religious services ; more especially, as the lively and instructive remarks made about the closing period of his time, may not only prove profitable to us of the present, but also to succeeding generations. Although he travelled but little, he laboured much, in word and doctrine, and was often eminently favoured in the exercise of his ministerial gift, evidencing the authority with which his communications were accompanied, and that his mind was fervently devoted to promote the cause of righteousness on earth.

It appears, that he was born in the city of New-York, in the year 1725, of religious

parents, Joshua and Esther Delaplaine, whose memory is also precious ; the former having for many years filled the station of an elder in the Church, with much usefulness, and we have reason to believe endeavoured to train up his son, both by example and precept, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord ; but being of a volatile disposition, and attracted by the alluring and seducing pleasures of this world, he deviated from the purity and simplicity of the gospel ; although he did not long pursue the paths of vanity and folly, before he was graciously met with, and awakened to a sense of his dangerous situation, and of the necessity of a change ; and in humility submitting thereto, he became prepared for further manifestations of the divine will, and received a gift in the ministry about the 25th year of his age.

He was a man of a strong mind, and being early made acquainted with the divine principle, operating upon his heart, was led to embrace a life of great self-denial and abstractedness from the world, and being

forcibly impressed with the conviction of the danger and evils attendant on the pursuit of wealth and worldly aggrandizement, he not only carefully avoided the means which led thereto, but supported a testimony for the purity and simplicity of the gospel, and was often led to mourn on account of the degeneracy of many of the professed followers of Christ in these respects.

He was a charitable and sympathizing friend to the poor and afflicted, and distinguished for his alms and benevolent offices towards those of this description.

For some years before his decease, he grew feeble and infirm, yet he retained his faith and love to the last, and continued to labour both in the ministry and in the discipline of the Church. His last illness was attended with much bodily conflict, but his mind was mercifully borne up above it all, as is evident from the sentiments he expressed, some of which being preserved, are as follows :

Fifth month, 17th, 1799—"I expect my peace is made ; I am only waiting to enter into rest ;" and after a little pause, he said to several of his friends present, "Love silent meetings : silence was the ground upon which our predecessors first moved, in order to worship God. A slavish fear has sometimes presented itself to my mind, lest the flock should sustain a loss through the lack of vocal instruments ; but as I have dwelt in pure resignation to the divine will, great has been my peace. Let life be the spring of all your movements in the Church : generally speaking, it hath been my concern to wait for it to put me forth in the service thereof." His bodily pain being great, he acknowledged the Lord's wisdom therein, and expressed his resignation ; several times saying, he was ready and willing to leave this world, waiting the Lord's time, that he might join the heavenly host in adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. At another time, being in great pain, he said, " Oh ! the wisdom of the Creator : not only his judgments, but his ways are past finding out."



26th. Being recovered from fainting, he said, “In all these extremities of pain and of fainting fits, the power of divine love is over all.”

27th. This evening, he earnestly desired his son to seek the Lord whilst he was to be found, mentioning the great concern he had often felt for his well being, and that he felt peace in the discharge of his duty towards him in time past ; that many had slighted divine visitations to their souls ; and the great danger there was in putting off the necessary preparation for death until a time of sickness : and then said, “Wait, Oh! my soul, in patience, the Lord’s time ;” at another time, “A little longer—the end of all things is at hand, and I am endeavouring to fix mine eye upon the object of the saint’s faith.”

30th. “You see the distress I am in,” it was answered, yes, and we feel for thee, and cannot help thee, he replied, “the true spirit of sympathy is internal, it is seen but little, and felt much.”

31st. To a Friend: “the Lord is gra-

cious, his promises are yea and amen for ever.”

Sixth month, 1st. Something being proposed by way of medicine, he mentioned the improbability of being able to endure the operation, saying, “I would rather pass quietly away, but if you (meaning his family) cannot be easy without trying, I am willing to submit.” To a friend who visited him, he said, “My mind enjoys much sweetness, but my body is in great distress—I should have been glad to have been with you at the late annual Meeting, but it has been ordered otherwise in the wisdom of God, to whom be all praise; his mercy endureth forever.”

4th. To his son and son-in-law: “We slip away sometimes very suddenly, and if it should be so with me, tell a friend (whom he named) to make for me a plain, decent, pine coffin;” after a little pause, he said earnestly, “Do you understand me?” he was answered, yes.

6th. He broke forth in prayer in the following manner: “If it be consistent

with thy will, Oh ! God of all grace, mercy and love, put an end to this distress :” what followed could not be understood, his voice, through his great weakness, being very low. Afterwards, he spoke intelligibly, “ Am I not going the way of all flesh ?” It was answered, it appears so ; he then said, “ Lord, hasten the time ;” and after a pause, thus : “ Surely I am the clay and he the potter ; our Lord and Master assigns no more than he abilitates to bear ; his ways are all in wisdom.” At another time, addressing himself to a person he had sent for, he said, “ I sent for thee to take leave of thee once more ; perhaps this may be the last, though the hour is hid from me, but the Lord’s time is the best time. I only wait his coming. I desire and am favoured in a good degree to possess my soul in patience. Oh, how the love of God has flowed in my heart towards some young in years, compared with myself, and the breathing of my soul has been for them, that they may keep in the simplicity, not suffering the example of

others to cause them to stumble at the cross of Christ, for a dreadful day will come upon all the careless, and those who in their conduct deny him before men." At another time, he remarked, "I have had a testimony to bear against little things, (as many call them,) I have been faithful thereto, and I feel peace, substantial peace."

In concluding this narrative of the life and end of this our beloved friend, how forcible are the expressions of the royal Psalmist! "The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord, he is their strength in the time of trouble."

He departed this life, the 12th of Sixth month, 1799, in the 74th year of his age, and the 49th of his ministry.



*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Jericho, concerning MARY WILLIS.*

It is an encouraging evidence of the sufficiency of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that those who abide under its blessed influence, are thereby enabled to bear with Christian fortitude the varied trials and afflictions incident to this probationary state. This was exemplified in the life of our ancient and worthy friend.

It appears that her parents John and Mary Fry, were removed by death when she was about two years of age, and that she was piously inclined from her childhood, and early regarding the visitations of Divine Love, was brought into contrition and humility, and witnessed her mind prepared for the more full reception of the Truth, in the love of it; and she said that it had been to her a pearl of great price.

She entered into the marriage state with our well esteemed friend Samuel Willis, to whom she was a true helpmeet, and ten-

der, sympathizing companion, in temporal and spiritual concerns.

She was blessed with a large family of children, and endued with soundness of judgment and discretion in their management and instruction ; appearing to live under a daily concern to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, clearly manifesting, that she had no greater joy than to see her children walking in the Truth: and her care, through divine aid, we believe has been a blessing to them, and is remembered with gratitude. She was of a modest countenance and solid deportment ; of a mild and affable disposition, and her discreet conduct commanded respect and ready obedience from her children and those under her care, and tended to promote love and harmony in the family. She manifested a steady concern for the promotion of the cause of righteousness, being a good example in the attendance of religious meetings, of a reverent and tender spirit, waiting in humility on the Lord. She was concerned for the

preservation of good order, and very useful in managing the concerns of society, being indeed a mother in Israel.

When by age and infirmity she was prevented from attending meetings, she manifested that her zeal and concern were not abated; being often engaged to encourage others to that important duty: and many times expressed, that her love to her friends and the cause of Truth continued, greatly desiring its prosperity, and that the youth in a particular manner, by obedience to the operation of Divine Grace, might be prepared for usefulness in their generation. She was charitable to the poor, and a sympathizing friend to the afflicted.

The three last years of her life, she was mostly confined at home, through bodily weakness, during which time, she was favoured with patience and resignation, which, with her innocent and meek deportment, ministered instruction, and her memory is precious.

Towards the close of life, her mind

appeared to be more and more gathered into the heavenly inclosure ; often expressing her readiness and desire to quit this earthly tabernacle ; saying, her day's work was done, and that she knew not why she was continued after she was incapable, through infirmity and old age, of being any longer useful : nevertheless, she said, she was resigned to the Divine disposal, being willing to wait the Lord's time. Her illness was short, and she appeared to be sensible previous thereto, that her end was near, and when the time came, appearing to have nothing to do but to die, she departed in much quietude and stillness, being at peace with all, and we have no doubt is entered into the mansions of eternal blessedness.

She departed this life at Jericho, the 28th of 5th month, 1800, in the 88th year of her age, and her remains were attended to the grave by her friends and neighbours, her children and their descendants, of four generations.



*A Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Jericho, concerning JOHN WHITSON.*

He was born the 22d of the 12th month, 1717-18, in the compass of Bethpage particular Meeting, and was educated in the principles of Truth as professed by us, and early manifested his love thereto, being of an orderly life and conversation, and religiously inclined from his tender years, as appears by accounts received from those who were his intimates from his youth. By the seasoning influence of grace, as he grew in years he grew in experience, and became a good example in the church, being a man of a meek and quiet spirit, and was appointed in pretty early life to the station of an Elder. Although he was seldom active in meetings for discipline, yet his solidity of countenance, and weightiness of spirit in religious meetings, together with his diligent attendance, and general conduct through life, rendered his example useful and instructive. He was frequent in private retirement, and often

called his family together to wait on the Lord.

He was a good neighbour, an affectionate husband, and tender father; careful in the education of his children, and appeared to be above all things desirous to see them walking in the Truth. In his advanced age, particularly the two last years of his life, he was mostly confined at home with an asthmatic complaint, and other bodily infirmities, which he bore with patience, his countenance and deportment bespeaking great innocency and quiet resignation to the divine will. Some of his expressions in his last illness, as they denote the situation of his mind, are annexed.

At several times, he expressed, that did he not feel an inward support, he could not quietly bear up under his great bodily affliction. At another time, he said, unless there should be an alteration, he could not continue long: and then said, that he who had mercy upon the thief on the cross, he hoped would receive him, although he felt himself unworthy. At another time, he said, he had a lingering disorder, but hoped

he should pass through it with a quiet mind, and divers times mentioned the love he had for Friends, and desire for their advancement in the Truth. Being visited by some friends, he expressed the satisfaction it was to have their company; but added, "to have that peace that Christ gives to his followers, is to be preferred to any thing in this world:" and further said, "There formerly were many wars outwardly, so there are many now inwardly; but if we keep on our watch, we shall have strength given to overcome the enemy of our souls." After having rested better for some time than usual, he expressed much thankfulness therefor, saying, it all comes from the great Giver of all good, both temporal and spiritual. One evening, being in great bodily distress, he said, it is hard work, but hoped he should quietly submit to all, for it is no matter what we pass through here, if we do but enter the promised land, where the humble, contrite ones are received; but if we have not a truly humble mind, we shall never enter into the mansions of rest pre-

pared for the righteous. At another time, he said, I have much desired to know the spirit of true prayer, for it is that only that will be acceptable in the divine sight. Oh, how good it is to be little in our own eyes, that our Maker may be our all in all!

He continued in this humble, resigned state, and in clearness of understanding, until the evening before he departed, when, for a short time, he appeared a little lost, but soon recovered himself again, and expressed the great desire he had for the welfare of his grandchildren, receiving his last supper at the hands of one of them, with a pleasant countenance. And as he lived in peace and unity with his friends, and in good will to mankind in general, so we believe he died in the same, departing this life, the 3d of Second month, 1804, aged nearly 86 years, and we doubt not but the testimony which the apostle was commanded to write, Rev. xiv. 13, will apply to him: "Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord, from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."



*A Testimony of Thomas Willis, concerning  
his late wife, PHEBE WILLIS.*

INASMUCH as it hath pleased the Almighty to remove by death my beloved wife, Phebe Willis, I feel my mind engaged to give the following testimony concerning her. She was born in the village of Searingtown, in the township of Hempstead, on Long-Island, the 6th of the First month, 1773, of religious parents, John and Mary Searing, who educated her in the principles of Truth professed by Friends, of whose parental and religious care I have heard her speak with gratitude: and by the divine blessing thereon, she was in good measure preserved in innocence in her tender years: and through the visitations of divine love, and an early attention thereto, she was enabled to walk in a good degree of obedience to its discoveries, whereby she witnessed the incomes of peace and consolation. She continued in this state while she stood in

obedience to the light and knowledge manifested : but as she grew in years, becoming somewhat inclined to youthful vanity, she lost that precious communion with her Maker which she had before experienced : but about the 18th year of her age, the visitations of divine love were so renewed as to make her sensible of her spiritual condition, under which, she became deeply humbled, and brought into a state of contrition.

She was now engaged often to retire alone, to wait upon the Lord, and strew her tears in secret before him, imploring mercy at his hand ; and in this profitable state of waiting upon God, she was prepared for the more full reception of the Truth, in the love of it ; and the Lord was pleased to favour her with further manifestations of his will ; and by faithfulness thereunto, she witnessed a growth in the Truth ; and being, in divine wisdom and mercy, led through many deep and humbling baptisms of spirit, she became measurably weaned from the love of the

perishing enjoyments of this life ; and in proportion thereto, her love was increased, and desires strengthened for that treasure which fadeth not away.

About this time, we were united in the marriage covenant, and were favoured with a comfortable evidence of divine approbation therein. Her sense of the solemnity of the undertaking, I find amongst her papers, thus expressed : “ My mind hath been humbled this day, under a sense of the renewed extension of divine regard, marvellously manifested at this time ; my spirit hath been bowed, and all within me humbled ; and this language raised in me : What shall I render to my God, for all his benefits. Oh, may I become more like a vessel cleansed and purified from the dross and tin of this polluted world.”

She was of a modest countenance, and solid deportment ; cheerful in her manners, but careful not to exceed the bounds of Truth, which rendered her example instructive and inviting.

When under bodily infirmity, of which she had a large share, she was favoured

with patience and resignation, being evidently supported in a belief, that as she submitted to the turning of the divine hand in every trying dispensation, all would work together for good. At one of these seasons, she was reduced so low, that for several months she was generally unable to speak audibly, and when, according to outward appearance, not likely to continue long, being one evening raised up in bed, after a little quiet, she, with a raised voice, uttered these words: "Glory, might, and majesty, are with thee, dearest Father;" and presently added, "Behold, I stand as at the brink of the grave, and wait thy salvation:" and after a time of solemn silence, the family at her request all sitting around, she broke forth in supplication, thus: "Most holy Father, if it be thy will, raise up judges as at the first, and counsellors as at the beginning, and make thy vineyard fruitful, saith my soul." Being asked, if she had apprehensions of her time being short, she said, "I have not apprehended it to be so; the Lord hath said unto me, Thou needest not a physi-



cian, I will heal thee myself, and my words will I give unto thee : glory, honour, and praise, be ascribed unto him, saith my feeble soul." A day or two after, having dropped some expressions in commemoration of the love and goodness of the Almighty to her, she added, "The Lord hath said unto me, thou shalt live and not die, with this injunction, keep thou my command."

Having been deeply plunged into suffering, both inwardly and outwardly, in this sickness, she was now favoured with the incomes of divine love, to her comfort and consolation; and from the fulness of this enjoyment, was enabled at times to tell unto others, with an audible voice, what the Lord had done for her; and often administered caution and advice suitable to the states of such as visited her; and the language of invitation and encouragement to those in early life, flowed through her, as she sometimes expressed, like a stream of love. She was loving and dutiful to her parents, tenderly affectionate to her brothers and sisters, watching over them, and admonishing as she

found occasion ; a faithful and loving wife, and a true help-meet to me : her watchful care and concern for my preservation, with the sweetness and sincere affection which accompanied her admonitions, as well as her gentle reproofs, when necessary, remain impressive on my mind. She was a sympathizing friend with the afflicted, in visiting whom, she often administered a word of exhortation or consolation ; diligent in the attendance of religious meetings, and when there, her reverent manner of sitting, was exemplary and instructive. She at times appeared in the ministry in meetings, and also often in families, I believe to the satisfaction, comfort, and edification of her friends ; and I have no doubt, her memory is precious to many of them ; particularly to some cotemporaries of her own sex, for whose welfare she appeared to be deeply engaged.

A short time before her last illness, we visited her father and two of her sisters ; and on parting with them, her mind was seriously impressed ; and in an opportunity of quiet sitting, she remarked their

being once more together, reminding them of the uncertainty of their meeting again in mutability ; and that the main point was, to endeavour so to live as to be prepared to meet again in endless bliss, when time here should be no more ; and further added, that she hoped we should be preserved from murmuring or repining at the dispensations of Providence; however trying they might be. We returned home, and the evening following she was taken ill with the sickness which, in less than a week, terminated her existence in the body.

As it had been her daily concern, to live in the state of preparation which she had so lately recommended, she was not alarmed at the approach of death. The disorder in its latter stage became very powerful, and at times deprived her of reason and speech ; yet at intervals she was favoured with them, when she appeared clearly sensible of her approaching dissolution, and her mind was covered with an awful sense of its solemnity. Two of her sisters coming to see her, on the fifth day of her ill-

ness, she appeared glad to see them, and desired them to keep near her; saying, they had but very little time to be together, for she was near going; and at several times, gave them counsel and advice. The ensuing evening, appearing to be sensible that death was approaching, she called several of her nearest connexions to her, and in tender endeared affection, embraced them, as taking her last leave, endeavouring to communicate something to them, which, by reason of great weakness and difficulty of utterance, was not clearly understood; after which, the force of her disorder deprived her of her understanding, and she expired in the morning following, the 20th of Sixth month, 1804, aged 31 years.

By her removal, I feel my loss to be great; yet I am comforted in a belief, that she hath laid down her head in peace, and that her immortal spirit is at rest with the Father, having received the blessed answer, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

THOMAS WILLIS.



*The Testimony of Abial Gifford and Joanna, his wife, concerning their daughter*  
 JOANNA.

THIS our daughter never gave latitude to youthful inclinations, which lead into undue liberties, as many do ; and as she grew in years, she experienced a happy advancement in the way of the Lord's requirings, and became engaged vocally to espouse the cause of Truth in meetings for religious worship, which was acceptable to her friends. She did not long enjoy her health, but soon fell into a gradual decline, during which, she uttered many comfortable and seasonable expressions, and gave advice to the youth and others, which we hope will not be lost. Some of her expressions being preserved, are as follows :

The second or third day of her confinement, a number of young people and others being present, she invited them to sit down in silence, that they might be favoured to feel the Lord's living pre-

sence ; when she was engaged to warn the lukewarm, not to put off their day's work until sickness ensued, as the pains of the body would be enough to bear, without the distress of the mind, for disobedience ; and those who had been favoured in some measure to give up their names to serve the Lord, were encouraged to hold on their way. Next morning, some friends being about to take their leave, she, in a pressing and affecting manner, expressed her concern for a young woman who had been long afflicted with sickness, that she might not forget the power by which she had been visited, but be given up in faithful obedience to him who had called her, and not put it off for a more convenient season, as there was no time more acceptable than the time present. She also pressing-ly advised them not to forsake the attendance of religious meetings, which is our reasonable duty ; and when there, to endeavour to silence all their own creaturely desires, that they might be favoured to feel the living presence of the Lord, to the re-

freshment of the soul, which was to be prized above all the enjoyments of a perishing world. At another time, she said to her father, she did not think she should continue long, and desired they would give her up, as she saw nothing in her way, and expressed the satisfaction she had in her deep exercises. Two young women coming into the room, she requested them to sit by her bedside ; and after a short silence, spake to the state of their minds in an affecting manner, exhorting them to deny themselves of every thing that the Lord had a controversy with, setting forth the love of God in a living and sensible manner : soon after, she said, you are going to supper ; I hope you will wait upon the Lord, that you may know your strength to be renewed, which is the way to be contented with that which best suits our constitutions, and not to desire many rich dainties. At one time, being asked by her father how she did, she pleasantly answered, "I am well enough:" two of her brothers coming into the room, she said,

be kind to your parents ; adding, there is no greater joy to parents, than to see their children walk in the Truth. In the course of her sickness, she was divers times heard to express great concern for the prosperity of Truth the world over, without respect to the distinguishing names of religion. Her concern for the welfare of her fellow creatures was so great at one time, that she expressed a willingness to lay down her own life, if it would be the means whereby one soul might escape everlasting misery.

Her sickness was long, which she bore with resignation ; though she sometimes desired, that the time of release might come, but begged she might be favoured with patience to wait the Lord's time. She was frequently engaged in supplication to the throne of grace, and expressed much tenderness for her parents, especially for her mother, who was very weakly, to whom she would often remark, "I do not know but thou wilt wear out in taking care of me ;" saying to the young woman.



who waited on her, "Thou wilt be rewarded." One of her brothers coming to see her the day of her decease, her father asked her, if she had any thing to say to her brother, she answered, "I have done my day's work, and that makes me easy to part with him." A few hours before her departure, she said to her father, "Who can desire me to stay any longer?" He replied, that he had no desire for her continuance ; at which, she was rejoiced ; and soon after, her speech failed her, though she appeared to be sensible until near the last ; and she quietly passed away, as one falling into a sweet sleep, the 29th of the Fifth month, 1802, aged near 25 years.

*The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of  
Galway, concerning WILLIAM ODELL.*

IT appears, that he was born in the year 1755, in the town of Weston, in Fairfield county, and State of Connecticut, of parents by profession Presbyterians; and received his education amongst that people. About the 24th year of his age, he removed to Ballston, in the county of Saratoga, and State of New-York. Being brought under religious exercise, he became convinced, that the religion which he had possessed was merely traditional, and not sufficient for him; and as he continued to seek the Lord, with desires to be instructed in the right way, after much exercise and many humiliating seasons, he became convinced of the Truth; and as he submitted to the dictates thereof, he was led to seek a people that were concerned to walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing. Hearing of a Meeting of Friends, about 18 miles from him,

he attended it to satisfaction, and in time became a member of our Society. His zeal and concern to meet with his brethren to wait upon the Lord were such, that he often travelled on foot, to and from the aforesaid meeting in a day; and being faithful to manifested duty, he grew in grace, and in the saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and it pleased the Head of the Church to qualify him for the work of the ministry, whereby he was constrained in gospel love, to tell unto others what the Lord had done for him; and was often concerned to invite the attention of the people, to the word nigh in the heart and in the mouth. He manifested a concern for the right ordering the affairs of the Church, and to impart suitable counsel and caution to his beloved children. He was a kind neighbour, and an affectionate and sincere friend, which gained him the esteem of his acquaintance and friends.

He was taken ill from home, on Fourth-day, the 3d of Seventh month, 1805, with

the billious cholic, but returned home that evening. He signified, that it was uncertain how his disorder might terminate, but said, if the Lord had no further service for him, he had no desire to live any longer.

On Sixthday, he said to his children, "I shall leave you exposed on every hand;" and wished them to be watchful and careful; adding, "I want you to do well." Seventhday, he appeared to be in great bodily distress, which a relation of his observing, asked him, if he was not discouraged; to whom he cheerfully answered, "No, child! there is nothing to discourage; if I die, there is no cause of discouragement." On Firstday, he expressed his love to his friends and neighbours that came to visit him. On Secondday morning, his children being near him, and discovering their grief, he said to them, get down to that which gives strength; adding some expressions in supplication for their preservation. A person coming in to see him, inquired how he did; after speaking something in regard to his disorder, he



said, “ I am very unwell, yet I feel nothing to discourage ; but, Oh ! it is a great thing to be prepared to die—and they are unwise who put it off until the closing scene : it is the business of life. I feel my mind quiet, and centered in the ocean of love and infinite goodness.

Thus, what he believed in and had felt concerned to propagate in his life, he was established in at the day of his death. A few hours after the foregoing expressions, he quietly departed this life, the 8th of the Seventh month, 1805, aged about 50 years, and a minister 12 years.

*The Testimony of Nine-partners Monthly Meeting, concerning WILLIAM VALENTINE.*

HE was born in the township of Hempstead, on Long-Island, in the year 1730. His parents not being in profession with any religious society, he was left to choose for himself therein. From his own account, he was, when young, frequently brought under a deep concern for his everlasting welfare, which continued for some years, without his finding that which he longed for. In this state of mind, he attended the public Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Westbury, where, by the powerful ministry of Samuel Fothergill, who was extensively engaged in gospel labour, he was convinced of the principles of Truth, as held by Friends. This was a day of glad tidings, his spirit being comforted in the enjoyment of the presence of Christ his Saviour, whom he now found to be near, even within himself. After this, he

diligently attended the meetings of Friends at Westbury, mostly on foot, (being in low circumstances,) though he lived at a considerable distance; and persevering in faithfulness to the manifestations of Truth, he was enabled patiently to bear the cross, and became an example of christian sobriety. After some years, he received a gift in the ministry, and his communications were acceptable and edifying.

In the year 1783, he removed within the compass of this Meeting, where he continued to reside till his decease. He was a diligent attender of meetings for worship and discipline, and honestly concerned for the right order thereof, and was often engaged to show unto others, the way of life and salvation. Though he did not travel far abroad in the ministry, yet he at different times visited some of the remote parts of this Yearly Meeting, and several times the families of this particular Monthly Meeting, to the satisfaction of Friends.

His conversation was instructive, and often when he was conversing on subjects

of a religious nature, his spirit was broken and contrited.

He loved the company of young people, for whom he often expressed a concern, that they might be prevailed on to devote the morning of their days to the service of the Lord ; testifying, from experience, that they never would have cause to repent of it, but that they would come to witness, that a day in the Lord's courts, is better than a thousand elsewhere.

When, through bodily indisposition, he was confined at home, he appeared much resigned to his allotment ; often mentioning, that he was fast hastening to the grave, and had no desire to live longer if it was the Lord's will to remove him hence ; yet he hoped to keep clear of anxiety on that account, and said, " I am patiently waiting, and quietly hoping, until my change come."

Thus having been devoted to the service of Truth, he was favoured in his concluding moments with a peaceful mind, and quietly departed this life, the 6th of the Fourth month, 1808, aged about 78 years.



*The Testimony of Nine-partners Monthly Meeting, concerning MARY GRIFFIN.*

IT appears, that she was born at Stonington, in the State of Connecticut, in the Fifth month, 1710, of parents of the Society of Presbyterians, who being zealous in their profession, endeavoured to educate her agreeably thereto. Her mind was early and tenderly visited with the influence of divine love, agreeably to her own expressions: "I do, from a degree of experience, certainly know, that the holy spirit is moving upon the minds of children in early life, reprovng for evil doing, and justifying for well doing; and when young, I often retired alone, and the breathings of my mind were, that if I were spared to arrive to the state of a woman, the Lord would enable me to become a good woman: but by not yielding in faithfulness to the manifestations of Truth, my mind was led into the vanities of youth, for which I was secretly reprov'd; and

when, having arrived to mature age, attending a meeting appointed by Friends near my residence, the Father of mercies was pleased to meet with me in a wonderful manner: may I never forget the tender dealings of a gracious God." As she attended to the teachings of divine grace, her understanding became enlarged in knowledge and experience in spiritual things, and through obedience to the manifestations of Truth, she came forth in a public testimony for the cause of righteousness, about the twentieth year of her age. In the year 1745, she removed with her husband within the limits of this Monthly Meeting, and became eminently qualified for service and usefulness in the management of the discipline of the Church. Her ministry was lively and edifying, and she was frequently led, in the flowings of gospel love, tenderly to invite the youth to forsake the vanities of this life, clearly holding up to their view, the great advantage of an early dedication, in choosing the Lord for their portion; and

as she dwelt near the spring of eternal life in her own mind, so she was remarkably distinguished by the character of a true disciple; loving, kind, affectionate, and courteous to all. She several times travelled in the service of the gospel in divers parts of this Yearly Meeting, and twice into New-England. Her services in these visits, were very satisfactory and comfortable to her friends: and when more than four score years of age, she performed an extensive and very acceptable visit, in the love of the gospel, to the northern parts of this Yearly Meeting, in which the divine life manifestly accompanied her religious services, being supported and carried through to admiration. She continued lively and green in very advanced age, her mind appearing centered and settled on the living foundation: and about the ninety-fifth year of her age, she performed a satisfactory visit to a number of the Monthly Meetings in Nine-partners and Stanford Quarterly Meetings, and the families constituting them; and in the

hundredth year of her age, when she was so weak in body, as not to be well able to stand alone, she felt her mind drawn to visit a part of the families of Nine-partners particular meeting, which, by the aid of her friends, she performed, and was led to point out and speak with clearness to particular states among those she visited, and attended several public meetings at this place, wherein she was admirably favoured to communicate suitable counsel, in a lively and pertinent manner. In these visits, the declaration of the Psalmist was abundantly verified: "those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God: they shall still bring fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing." Thus having been long exercised in her heavenly Master's cause, she seemed absorbed in his love, and her converse was much about the things that pertain to an everlasting state. When retired and meditating alone, which was her frequent practice, she was heard to say, "I hope ere long to rest



eternally in the arms of thy love." At another time, after recovering from a fainting fit, to which she was subject, she exclaimed, "I feel love to flow to all mankind, and I believe this love will yet increase, and Truth prosper and spread through distant lands, even where they sit as it were in darkness; and that the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the water does the sea: my heart is filled with praises to the Lord, that he not only called me in my youth, but enabled me to follow him, and is yet with me in old age. Oh, it is well when we can say with the apostle, 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth, there is laid up for me, a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also, that love his appearing.'" She gradually declined, continuing in a sweet frame of mind, and in the morning of the 1st of Twelfth month, she desired her daughter (who had been with her on a visit, and pro-

posed leaving) to stay another day, as she had long wished her to be present at her close. Towards evening, after a fainting turn, she called for her children and grandchildren, and addressed them with her last words, saying, "Fear the Lord above all things, and keep up your religious meetings;" and in a few hours, she breathed her last, which was on the 2d of Twelfth month, 1810, aged 100 years and about 7 months; and we doubt not, but she has obtained the fulness of her petition, which was, "May I be favoured so to live, that I may at last receive the reward of 'Well done,' and an entrance into the joy of my Lord."

*The Memorial of the Monthly Meeting of  
Hudson, concerning THOMAS COMSTOCK.*

IT appears, that he was born at Providence, in the State of Rhode-Island, the 3d of the Ninth month, 1732, N. S. His Parents, Thomas and Mercy Comstock, were religiously disposed persons, and frequently attended Friend's Meetings.

In his youth, he was of a serious turn of mind, and by careful attention to the inward manifestations of divine light, we believe he in good measure witnessed deliverance from the dominion of sin.

After many deep baptisms and close exercises, he became prepared for the important work of the ministry; and from the best accounts we can obtain, about the 29th year of his age, came forth in that important service, to the acceptance of his friends. He travelled considerably in the service of Truth within the compass of the Yearly Meetings of Rhode-Island, New-York, and Pennsylvania, approving

himself faithful in the discharge of his duty : and we believe his labours were to the satisfaction of Friends, and to the peace of his own mind.

In the year 1766, he entered into the marriage state with our esteemed friend, Elizabeth Haviland, of Flushing, Long-Island, and shortly afterwards, removed to Oblong, in this State, and he was long a useful member of that meeting.

During the last 26 years of his life, he resided in the city of Hudson ; and we have cause for thankfulness in having been so favoured with his religious services.

In doctrine, he was sound and edifying : not forward to utter words, careful to minister from right authority. Humility and meekness, were conspicuous traits in his character. Although it was sometimes his lot to feel great depression, yet we believe he often had to witness the truth of the declaration, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Mat. v. 4.



He was diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings, while of ability of body: and being convinced of the spirituality of all true worship, we often beheld in him a dignified example of solemn silence.

Deep in religious experience, and possessed of a feeling mind, he was peculiarly qualified to sympathize with the afflicted. His heart and house were always open to receive his friends with genuine hospitality, preserving that simplicity of life which adorns the followers of Christ. He was punctual in fulfilling his engagements, endeavouring to avoid every occasion of offence, being a great lover of peace.

In conversation, instructive and often cheerful; his company, even in advanced years, continued to be very desirable: and when increasing infirmities of body disabled him from attending meetings, his understanding remaining clear and unimpaired, his advice was often sought for.

Thus, he passed through the various progressions of a religious life, faithfully

endeavouring to promote the cause of universal righteousness on earth; and in his conversation amongst men, perhaps it may be said, that few have been preserved in a more undeviating line of rectitude.

He peacefully departed this life, the 11th of the Third month, 1811, aged 79, a minister about 50 years.

*The Testimony of Stanford Monthly Meeting, concerning SARAH HULL.*

SHE was daughter of Edward and Phebe Hallock, of Marlborough, Ulster county, in the State of New-York, who instructed her in the principles of the christian religion as held by the Society of Friends ; which, together with the example of Friends who put up at her father's house, was blessed to her, tending to turn her mind, in early life, to the internal monitor, by whose reproofs for lightness of conduct, she was favoured to see that it was well with the righteous, and to dread the displeasure of the Almighty.

In this state of mind, she frequently sought places of retirement to pour forth her tears, and pray to the Lord that she might be favoured to witness his help to walk in a way that would be acceptable to him.

In some of these seasons, when favoured with a sense of the heavenly Father's love, her tears were tears of joy ; and she willingly entered into covenant, that if the

Lord would be with her, and keep her from evil, she would serve him all the days of her life : her mind was also attended with a belief, that if she was faithful, she would have to testify to others of the goodness and mercy of the Lord, and to invite them to come and partake thereof.

It was a pleasant duty to her to attend religious meetings, often riding a considerable distance on horseback to those for church discipline ; none being held near her Father's place of residence, whilst she lived with him.

In the year 1785, she was married to our friend, Henry Hull, of Stanford, in Dutchess county, and settled within the limits of this meeting, then a branch of Creek Monthly Meeting. She was soon noticed by Friends, for her diligence in attending meetings, and for her exemplary and pious conduct in other respects. She was of a pleasant, cheerful disposition, and disposed to be useful to her fellow creatures, seeking occasions therefor without ostentation. Her sympathetic mind often led her to the habitations of the afflicted,



where she was frequently engaged in acts of kindness, and in imparting salutary counsel, which rendered her visits pleasant, and particularly useful to some who were under discouragement from other causes beside bodily affliction.

She was frequently left alone with the care of his family, when her husband was engaged in travelling in the ministry, to which service she cheerfully gave him up.

About the thirty-first year of her age, she came forth herself in that important work, with much diffidence. Her appearances in the ministry for several years were not frequent; but being careful to wait for the renewed evidence of Truth, her offerings were very acceptable; and by being faithful in the little, she grew in her gift, and became a well qualified instrument for the Lord's work. She frequently performed religious visits to the families of Friends, in this and the neighbouring Monthly Meetings; and also travelled within the limits of Pennsylvania, Rhode-Island, and this Yearly Meeting. The last of these visits, was in the year

1810, when parting with her husband in the city of New-York, as he was about embarking on a religious visit to Great Britain and Ireland; she recommended him with her own soul to the care and protection of Israel's Shepherd, and then returned home; and after a few days, she left her children, in much tenderness of spirit, and set out for the Yearly Meeting on Rhode-Island, which she attended, and went from thence as far as Nantucket; and taking meetings in the way, returned home. After her return from this journey, she was several times heard to say, that she believed it would be the last visit from her to Friends in New-England, which proved to be the case: she, however, performed several short journies, which kept her from home a few days at a time, returning joyfully to her family, who were dear to her, and to whom she was an example of kindness and charity.

In the spring of the year 1812, a solemn dispensation of sickness, which proved mortal to many, spread a general alarm amongst the inhabitants of this and some:

adjacent places ; in the progress of which, she appeared to be raised above the fear of danger, visiting the sick, and attending meetings and burials ; and was much favoured in the exercise of her gift in the ministry ; the streams of gospel love which flowed through her, tending to console the hearts of many.

On the 19th of Third month, after returning from the funeral of a friend, she complained of severe pain in the head, and the prevailing fever setting in, she was soon confined to her bed ; where she evinced the fortitude of a Christian, and could look back and reflect on her endeavours to advance the cause of religion, with thankfulness. Her mind appeared to be filled with love to all mankind, and particularly to her friends around her, saying, she believed all was done for her comfort that was necessary to be done, and that she was resigned to wait the termination of the disorder. To a friend who came in, she said, "I now know that I have not followed cunningly devised fables, but living and substantial truth." At another time, when

her mind seemed filled with heavenly love, speaking of the happy state of the righteous, she said, "I am raised above all doubting, my good Master has shewn me, that he has prepared a seat for me." At another time, calling a young man to her, "This is a time to prove religion, and I now find that the religion I have lived in, will do to depend upon: leave all mysterious reasonings and doubtings, seek the God of thy father and of thy mother, and he will be found of thee: be faithful to a little light, and it will be increased." Having, she said, done her day's work while in health, she was ready when it was the divine will to receive the reward thereof. A few minutes before her departure, with great difficulty of utterance, she said, "I want to go to bed; as says the prophet of the righteous, they shall enter into peace, they shall rest in their beds:" and then, in a peaceful state of mind, departed this life, on the 4th of the Fourth month, 1812, aged about 48 years, leaving the consoling evidence, that she had gone to the abodes of rest and peace.



*The Testimony of Nine-partners Monthly Meeting, concerning REUBEN PALMER.*

IT appears, that he was born at Horse-Neck, in the state of Connecticut, of parents who were in profession with the Presbyterian Society. In his minority, they became convinced of the principles of Truth as held by Friends, and removed to this place in the early settlement of it, and joined in religious fellowship with our Society, in the year 1742. He was naturally of a lively, cheerful turn of mind, yet in early life, so far submitted to the operation of the divine principle in the heart, as to be preserved in a good degree of innocence, and thus he continued until about the fortieth year of his age, when he was brought into exercise of mind, and led to believe that a dispensation of the gospel was committed to him. Many and deep were the baptisms of spirit which he passed through while under the preparing hand; and about the forty-sixth year of his

age, he came forth in the ministry, bearing a living testimony to the satisfaction and comfort of his friends ; and although a man of small capacity, yet through faithfulness to divine openings, he became qualified to preach the gospel in the demonstration of the spirit, to the refreshment and encouragement of the exercised traveller Zionward ; occasionally warning the unruly and gainsaying, being also concerned for the right ordering of the discipline of the Church. He did not travel much out of the compass of our own Yearly Meeting in the exercise of his gift, yet was devoted to his heavenly Master's cause, manifesting a concern for the young and rising generation, frequently visiting them in their habitations, and, like a skilful nursing father, watching opportunity to caution, counsel and advise them, being often favoured to break a crumb to the tender minds of these, as well as to those of riper years. Many of us can subscribe to the expressions of the apostle as applicable to him ; that he had no greater joy, than to hear of his

children walking in the Truth. He continued his labours in these parts, often visiting the adjacent meetings, and particularly the northern parts of our Yearly Meeting. About the 75th year of his age, he apprehended it his duty to remove and settle in Rensselaerville, in the compass of Coemans Monthly Meeting; and although it was trying to his friends, especially at that advanced age, yet they resigned him to the disposal of his heavenly Father, and as he had lived, so he parted with his friends, in love. He continued there near 7 years, where (we have cause to believe) his religious services were very useful, in which time, through the constrainings of divine love, he made a visit to the families of this Monthly Meeting; often expressing, that he had come there to take a final farewell of his dear friends. His visit was very acceptable, and through the continued goodness of his divine Master, his cup was made to overflow, under a grateful sense of which he took leave, and returned home; and according to his

own expressions, it proved a final parting. From thence, with his children, he removed and settled at Western, in Oneida county, and from Friends of that place, we have received the following remarks :

He lived amongst us about three years and a half, and was beloved by his friends and neighbours. He was a constant attendant of meetings, while able. His ministry was sound and edifying. A few months before his death, he visited a number of families of Friends and others to their satisfaction, and his own peace of mind. He was often heard to say, that he felt thankful that he had been enabled in his old age and weakness, to perform those labours of love which he believed were required of him. As the time of his dissolution drew near, his love and concern for the Truth and its testimony, appeared to be unabated. He often exclaimed in our public meetings, "Oh ! Western, Western, now is the day of thy visitation ; close in with it." He was, whilst amongst us, a pattern of innocence in life and conversa-



tion. During his last sickness, which continued about nine weeks, he underwent much bodily pain, and bore it with great patience and christian fortitude ; saying, “ My pain is all in my body ; I feel none in the best part.” - He often expressed great desires to be taken to the rest of the righteous, having a firm hope and belief that he who had preserved him thus far, would carry him safe through ; often expressing a desire, that Friends might get into the just man’s path ; for he had found by experience, that it grew brighter and brighter : and a little before his close, prayed as follows : “ O Lord, remember my children and grandchildren, relations and dear friends, the world over. O, that thou wouldst be pleased to lengthen the cords of Zion, and strengthen her stakes, that thy righteousness and truth might prosper in the earth. One morning, he said, “ I have had a very poor night, but I now feel my heavenly Father’s presence, and such sweetness of mind, that I have nothing to do but to die ;” adding,

“tell Friends to be engaged to keep up their religious meetings.”

He departed this life, the 11th of Eighth month, 1811, aged about 86 years, having been a minister about 40.

*The Testimony of Amawalk Monthly Meeting, concerning SARAH UNDERHILL.*

SHE was the daughter of Robert and Rebecca Field, members of Purchase Monthly Meeting. Her mother was removed by death when she was quite young, but through the humbling visitations of divine grace, she was made willing to yield obedience thereto, and to seek an inheritance in the Truth; and by persevering in faithfulness to the unfoldings thereof, she became qualified to be a useful member of religious society.

After her marriage with our friend Isaac Underhill, she faithfully performed the important duty of a wife, being attentive, kind, affectionate, and indeed, a true helpmeet to him on all occasions.

Her care and piety were particularly exemplified in the education and management of a numerous offspring. She was concerned to seek for wisdom and understanding to nurture them in the fear and

admonition of the Lord: and from the fullness of her concern for her children's welfare, she would frequently, as she walked by the way, or was sitting by her fireside, invite their attention to the Law of the Lord written in their hearts, and her petitions were often preferred to the throne of grace on their behalf.

Diligent in the attendance of meetings, even to advanced age, she was also an example of humility and reverent waiting in them. Her countenance grave and sweet, evinced the serenity of her mind and the weightiness of her spirit, and that she was deeply engaged to perform true and acceptable worship; and we have no doubt but she frequently experienced, on those solemn occasions, the verity of the Psalmist's declaration, "The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous." Thus, sensible of the benefit as well as the importance of the duty, she was careful to encourage her children and domestics to the steady attendance of religious meetings, and to



make way for seasons of retirement in her own family, having the Scriptures and other suitable books often read.

Being of a cheerful disposition, and remarkable for her courtesy and affability, she often mingled in pleasant converse with her friends; and having much place with those in early life, as well as with those who were older, (for all loved her society,) those seasons were generally interesting; and as her mind was under the influence of love, and attracted thereby to the source of good, they were often to edification and the promotion of the cause of righteousness.

Instructed in the school of Christ, she became qualified to be an elder in the Church, and a mother in Israel. Sensible of her dependance on the Lord for daily support, it was her practice often to meditate on his goodness, frequently appearing, at such seasons, to be filled with thankfulness in the enjoyment of the divine presence. And having in the vicissitudes and exercises which marked her progress

through life, experienced the supporting arm of the Lord to be with her, she would often gratefully commemorate his wonderful dealings, and encourage others in a feeling manner, to faithfulness and obedience to the law of the Spirit of life, that so they might know Christ to be the way and the door into the sheepfold, their sanctification and redemption. Being endued with an intelligent mind, enlightened by divine truth, she was qualified to discern the early buddings of wrong things in her own family and others, and being vigilant in care, gentle, but unwearied in her endeavours to reclaim, her labours rarely failed of acceptance.

She was a zealous supporter of the discipline of the Society, and careful to exemplify in her own conduct a correspondence with her precepts.

Commiserating the afflictions of her fellow creatures, for which she was remarkable, her sympathy was often directed to the sufferings of the Africans and their descendants, in a state of bondage.

Her last illness was short, and being occasioned by a paralytic shock, rendered her very helpless, and in great measure deprived her of the use of speech. She, nevertheless, retained her understanding, and was preserved to the closing scene, in that sweet disposition which had been so distinguishing a trait in her character through a long life, waiting with patience and resignation for the hour of dissolution. At intervals, she would be pleasant as if in perfect health, and strive to communicate to those about her, and although with much difficulty, she occasionally uttered a few words. Her bodily afflictions were great, and at times she also experienced much poverty of spirit. At one time, she expressed herself so as to be distinctly understood, "I beg that I may be preserved to the end: our Saviour desired that the cup might pass from him, but said, Not my will, but thine be done;" adding, "submission to suffering is also necessary for us."

She desired, that a friend who was sick should be told from her, “not to give way to discouragement, but to lift up her head in hope, for help was near.” To several young friends who came to see her, she imparted tender and affecting counsel, though with faltering accents ; urging the necessity of faithfulness to manifested duty. One evening, she said, “Oh, how poor and destitute I am, yet I have no cause to be discouraged ; what shall we do when we have no light ? Look to the Lord and he will help.”

At another time, “I have an anchor to my soul, and am surrounded with light : I have been labouring, and have got to the bottom : all is light and life.”

A short time before her departure, she said, “I am willing to go ; I am filled with light ; I am surrounded with light, and centered in it.” After being fervently engaged in supplication, she departed this life, the 20th of Third month, 1812, aged 78 years ; and having been concerned to keep the commandments of God and the



faith of Jesus, we have no doubt but the voice from heaven which John heard, will apply to our beloved friend : “ Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord, from henceforth ; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them.” Rev. xiv. 13.

FINIS.

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